The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Three men may keep a secret if two of them are dead.—Benjamin Franklin.

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EDITORIALS

WORK REFUSAL BY JOBLESS

Every little while professional harpies, whose opposition to relief of any sort for the victims of unemployment is an obsession, jump into the limelight of publicity with the charge that a large number of the millions of out-of-works refuse even the low-wage jobs provided by the Works Progress Administration.

A scream of this sort recently featured in the daily papers brought forth a strong denunciation from Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, who declared the reports were sheer fabrication. He said the brainstorms were quite likely based on the fact that 25 per cent of the assignments of the unemployed from relief rolls to WPA jobs do not result in placements. The superficial conclusion, he added, is that the 25 per cent have refused to accept the jobs and that their refusal results from their disinclination to perform work in return for relief.

In spiking this nonsense, Mr. Hopkins specifically stated that "not one worker in a hundred has shown preference for relief rather than work," adding:

"Very few workers have deliberately refused to accept WPA jobs.

"Men who fail to report to work projects because they have already secured private jobs, or because they are ill or disabled, or because they fail to receive the notice, can scarcely be called shirkers."

Declaring that "about three-fourths of all WPA job assignments result in placements on work projects," Mr. Hopkins stressed the point that the remaining one-fourth are not "refusals of jobs."

He said the Social Research Division of the Works Progress Administration has thoroughly investigated the charges of job refusal in many communities. The studies revealed legitimate reasons for the failure of 25 per cent of the relief roll unemployed to take WPA work.

An average of about 10 per cent were already employed in private industry when they received the WPA job notice. In some cities this percentage was as high as 18 per cent. It was found, moreover, that a considerable number were either ill or had been erroneously certified as eligible for WPA employment despite the existence of serious physical handicaps, and that others had become unemployable since their certification.

The reasons, not involving unwillingness to work, for failure to accept jobs included: inability to leave invalids or children at home alone, excessive distance from home to project, death, already employed on a WPA project, and unfitness for the job assigned.

The recurrence of these unfounded charges against the integrity of the 3,500,000 working men and women making up the relief roll jobless may have a slight basis in the utterly erroneous view that the unemployed never get sick themselves, never have physical handicaps, are always fitted to perform any sort of labor regardless of the kind and amount of energy required, and never have sickness in their families, or, if they do, can let their sick dependents look after themselves.

The truth is, of course, that jobless workers are even more subject than employed workers to all the hazards affecting the life and health of themselves and their dependents, but these unavoidable delinquencies are not taken into consideration by the antisocial elements who regard the victims of unemployment as vagrants deserving public condemnation.

These attacks on the unemployed always quiet down a bit after the Works Progress Administration shoots the charges full of holes, but persistently reappear with large accessions of other anti-labor slush.

In refutation of all this balderdash, Works Progress Administrator Hopkins, with the indisputable facts before him, definitely declares that "not one worker in a hundred has shown preference for relief rather than work."

PUBLIC OPINION POLLS

For a number of months the American Institute of Public Opinion has been taking so-called polls of "the people of the United States" on various questions in which the masses are vitally interested.

Some of the "polls" have indicated negative convictions toward social welfare measures and principles.

A doubt has been expressed as to whether the persons included in the "polls" accurately reflect mass public opinion. This doubt is accentuated by the result of the census which the Institute has taken on "Government Old Age Pensions for Needy Persons."

Persons on the Institute's mailing list were asked if they favored old age pensions. If so, how much they believed should be paid monthly to each single person, how much monthly to a husband and wife, and at what age the pension should begin.

The "poll" reveals that 89 per cent of those who voted favored old age pensions, with 60 years as the most popular eligibility age.

And then comes the rub. With respect to the size of the pension, Dr. George Gallup, spokesman for the Institute, declares "the largest single number of voters" favored $30 per month for one person and $50 for a husband and wife.

There isn't a city in the United States where one person can buy food, clothing and shelter, and the other necessities which constitute even the smallest decent living, for $30. Nor is there any city in the United States where a husband and wife can buy a similar decent living for $50 a month.

And yet, the American Institute of Public Opinion seriously informs us that it's "poll" showed a preference for the $30 and $50 standards.

Evidently the persons who are now required to live on old age pensions or who will come under old age pensions in the future were not included in that section of the public which makes up the Institute's voting list.

SHORT-WEIGHT COAL DEALERS

It is bad enough for workers who have families to support to be victimized by low wages and consequently low living standards. But the burden is much heavier when their meagre pay envelopes are ruthlessly plundered by merchants who through the use of short-weight devices overcharge for the necessaries of life.

In one day recently in Philadelphia, County Commissioner Morton Witkin personally prosecuted twenty-nine cases against coal dealers charged with violating the short-weight laws. Twenty of the defendants were fined a total of $501 and warrants were issued for those who did not appear. One company, charged with being 500 pounds short of a ton of coal sold to one customer, was fined $100 and costs.

In summing up the evidence Mr. Witkin said there was good basis for the belief that many coal dealers systematically defraud their customers, mostly poor people, by selling short-weight tons, adding:

"This is a racket that preys on the poor. We are going to stamp it out."

Undoubtedly coal dealers in other cities seek to add to their profits by short-weighting their customers. Municipal authorities throughout the United States would perform a patriotic duty by waging persistent war on these short-weight profiteers and stop their unconscionable scheme for defrauding consumers.

A WISE RULING

Employers who have been trying to chisel wages by propaganda designed to compel WPA workers to accept private jobs at wage rates lower than the already too low WPA subsistence wages have been given what is hoped will be a permanent knockout in the decision by Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, that persons working on WPA projects need not accept private employment at starvation wages.

The question received publicity in a statement by Major Wilfred E. Boughton, head of the WPA Industrial Employment Bureau in New York City, that he encountered much difficulty in inducing WPA workers and home relief cases to accept private employment because in many instances wages offered by private employers are lower than the payment for work relief.

Mr. Hopkins met this chiseling scheme with the plain ruling that State and local administrators need not order men off the WPA rolls unless the private employment offered provides full-time jobs at a "standard or going rate of wages" and do not conflict with established "union relationships."

This edict hits the nail squarely on the head. The WPA relief worker cannot be compelled to take work in a unionized trade at wages below the unio nscale for that trade. He cannot be compelled to accept a job at less than the prevailing wage rate. He cannot be compelled to accept a job at sweatshop wages. He cannot be compelled to take a job as a strikebreaker.

In short, the WPA worker has won a measure of liberty. Of course it isn't the liberty which the barnstormers of the American Liberty League advocate. But it is the liberty to reject a form of private economic serfdom.

BANKER URGES LARGER U. S. SUPREME COURT

By A. F. of L. News Service.

D. F. Guinan, president of the Merchants Banking Trust Company, Mahoney City, Pa., does not believe the Supreme Court of the United States should have authority to scuttle Federal laws regarded by thoughtful citizens as essential in the war against depression. The trust company is a member of the Federal Reserve System.

In view of opposition to such laws exhibited by the majority of the Court, Mr. Guinan advocates its enlargement by five jurists who will measure up to the nation's imperative needs.

In a statement presenting his convictions, Mr. Guinan says:

"The Supreme Court should not be permitted to interfere with legislative acts designed for industrial recovery.

"To get quick action, Congress should increase the number of judges from nine to 14, and the five additional judges should be outstanding exponents of the New Deal—men who will accept the basic principle that Congress can legislate to promote the public good and can open avenues for all, without hindrance from the Supreme Court."

Hits Reactionaries

Incidentally, Mr. Guinan has no use for the various groups who are rending the air with vapid mouthings aimed at destroying the confidence of our citizens in the United States Congress and the Nation's Chief Executive, all elected by the people.

"The biggest hindrance," he says, "to the introduction of new theories in the affairs of government is the group of paid propagandists masquerading under various names—'National Economy League,' 'Liberty League,' 'Constitutionalists,' 'U. S. Chamber of Commerce,' 'American Bankers' Association'—but all, fired by the same inspiration to discredit those who seek to make change of rulers."

Labor Throughout the Nation Will Join In Birthday Ball for President Roosevelt

National Unions Plan Special Greeting Consecrated Entirely to Warm Springs Foundation.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Representatives of the Labor Division of the National Committee in charge of the President's Birthday Ball on January 30 reported that last year's record for trade union participation in the event will undoubtedly be exceeded this year.

The receipts from the balls will be devoted to the eradication of infantile paralysis. Of the funds collected at each local ball, 70 per cent will remain in the locality to fight this dread disease, while 30 per cent will go to the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation, headed by the President.

Last year the balls throughout the country netted $1,006,000, and the year before $1,003,000.

Personal Greeting for the President

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, is chairman of the Labor Division, and Matthew Woll, third vice president of the A. F. of L., is secretary. Both Chairman Green and Secretary Woll sent out a final call to working men and women in every part of the country to give their united efforts in organizing and supporting the President's Birthday Ball in each community.

"Let there be no city in which labor does not do its share and play its full part," they said.

In a determination that organized labor's participation in the balls this year shall strike a record note in the persistent campaign against infantile paralysis, the Labor Division has sponsored a big national Birthday Greeting for Mr. Roosevelt, which will be specially presented to him on January 30.

Every local union will receive a large greeting blank with space for 100 signatures. Each signer will contribute 25 cents, so that each greeting blank when filled will represent $25, which will be turned over entirely to the Warm Springs Foundation, of which President Roosevelt is the head.

Union Chiefs Promise Help

The Labor Division urged executives of national and international unions to send these blanks to their locals. At a meeting here initiating the greeting movement cooperation was promised by the representatives of the following unions having offices in Washington: Fire Fighters, Printing Pressmen, Government Employes, Commercial Telegraphers, Hod Carriers, Tobacco Workers, Cigar Makers, Marble Polishers, Post Office Clerks, Railroad Conductors, Machinists, Plumbers, and Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor.

The officials of national and international unions whose headquarters are not in the District of Columbia were asked to join in the greeting movement.

In addition, the American Federation of Labor sent the greeting blanks to all directly affiliated local and federal labor unions.

Mayor Wilson of Philadelphia Outlaws Police Protection for Strikebreakers

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Philadelphia, Pa.—Approval of mass picketing and abolishing police protection for strikebreakers are outstanding features of the labor policy announced by S. D. Wilson, Philadelphia's new mayor.

Under the municipal governments which preceded Mayor Wilson mass picketing was proscribed. Several times in recent years the police were ordered to break up picket lines, and frequently the number of strikers allowed to picket a struck plant was arbitrarily limited.

Following a conference with his labor committee, consisting of 10 trade union officials, relative to plans for mediating a threatened strike of 800 window cleaners, Mayor Wilson made the following announcement:

"In accordance with my labor policy, the Superintendent of Police was notified that hereafter during strikes no permits will be required by the strikers for peaceful picketing.

"Mass picketing will be permitted and there will be no interference by police so long as there is no violation of the law by disturbance or other means.

"We hope to anticipate strikes in the future so they will not reach the stage where they will be difficult to adjust.

"From now on no police protection will be given strikebreakers brought into Philadelphia from New Jersey or any other place. We have a big enough labor supply, and good enough, to take care of our needs. Neither will police interfere in any peaceful strike, either on behalf of labor or employer.

"The practice of providing police guards to ride on trucks with strikebreakers is abolished."

Labor Board Orders Ballot In 4 Plants

Elections Held Necessary to Choose Collective Bargaining Agents in Accordance with Wagner-Connery Act.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board announced that it had ordered the holding of secret elections "to determine employe representation for the purpose of collective bargaining at the plants of four companies."

The elections are held by authority of the National Labor Relations Act, which prescribes such procedure when a controversy arises as to the representatives desired by the majority of the employes.

Two of the plants, the Board said, are cotton mills—the Beaver-Lois Mills of Douglasville, Ga., and the Saxon Mills of Spartanburg, S. C.—in each of which the balloting will decide whether the employes chose to be represented by the United Textile Workers of America.

The two other companies are the United States Stamping Company, Moundsville, W. Va., and the New England Transportation Company, New Haven, Conn.

The elections are expected to be held within a week to 10 days.

Labor Unrest Demands Election

According to a statement by the Board, the Beaver-Lois Mills is owned and operated by the Beaver Mills Company of New York City and employs about 300 workers. Local 1871 of the Textile Workers' Union entered a petition for an election last fall, charging at the time that the company circulated a petition among the workers which ostensibly notified the management that its employes "in desperate need of work" would "agree to such rules and regulations as are in effect at other mills in this section of the country." The National Labor Relation Board's investigation determined that "unrest among the mill hands requires an orderly secret ballot to determine the true choice of worker representatives." Production and maintenance employes will be eligible to vote.

Union Recognition Refused

In findings of fact accompanying the direction for an election at the Saxon Mills, the Board states that the mills ship 95 per cent of its cotton goods to States other than South Carolina, and that all invoices are billed to Iselin, Jefferson & Company, New York City, commission merchants. The shop committee of Local 1882, United Textile Workers, has on occasion met with the management of the Saxon Mills. The union's claim that it represents a majority of the employes, however, has never been acknowledged by the management.

Strike Closes Plant

Following a failure last July of the management to adjust certain grievances presented by the shop committee, a strike was called. The Mills closed the plant and operations have never been resumed. Subsequent meetings between management and the shop committee have failed to arrive at a settlement. There were 513 employes on the payroll when the mill shut down. The Board finds that Local 1882 has a present membership of 330.

The Board concludes from the facts that the "unanswered question as to proper employe representation is affecting interstate commerce, and that the holding of a secret election is the proper step to resolve the difficulty."

The United States Stamping Company election will determine whether the employes wish to be represented by the Porcelain Enamel Workers' Union, Local No. 18630. Production and maintenance department workers, excepting foreman, assistant foreman, supervisory and clerical employes and those who have quit or who have been discharged for cause during such period, will be eligible to vote.

The New England Transportation Company election involves the question whether the employes in the mechanical department wish to be represented by the International Association of Machinists or by the Mechanical Department Association.

JUSTICE IS SUBMERGED IN MAZE OF LEGALISM

By A. F. of L. News Service.

In discussing the web of legal technicalities which the United States Supreme Court usually weaves in and out of its decisions, the Philadelphia Record says:

"Frequently, the argument is made that the Supreme Court is able to dispense justice because it is detached, remote from the controversies and issues of public life.

"It is a hollow argument. First, because it is only half true; second, because the very detachment of the court members leads them to confuse law with justice. * * *

"What is the public to think when the court members become so deeply enmeshed in the web of the law which they and their predecessors have woven, that real justice, human justice, is crowded out of the picture? * * *

"Throughout the ages men have insisted that those who would wield power must also accept responsibility.

"Of all institutions in our civilized world, the Supreme Court of the United States alone rejects that principle."

NORRIS HITS SUPREME COURT'S VETO POWER

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Believing that the uncontrolled power of the United States Supreme Court to veto as unconstitutional acts of Congress which displease five out of the nine justices who constitute the court, Senator George L. Norris of Nebraska believes that such important decisions should not be valid unless approved by all the members of the court.

In addition to this limitation of power, he favors legislation depriving inferior courts of authority to consider the constitutionality of legislation and advocates placing this power in a new single court from whose decisions appeals would go direct to the Supreme Court.

In justification of his proposal that nothing less than a unanimous decision of the Supreme Court should hold a law unconstitutional, Senator Norris said:

"It takes 12 men to find a man guilty of murder. I don't see why it shouldn't take a unanimous court to find a law unconstitutional.".

RESTRICT POWER OF COURTS TO VOID LAWS, SISSON SAYS

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—Firmly convinced that the supreme prerogative of Congress under the Constitution is to enact general legislation without censorship of judges, Representative Sisson of New York declared he favored legislation to prevent any Federal or State court declaring unconstitutional any law relating to the general welfare, interstate commerce, taxation, money or the rights of individuals.

AFL Plans Drive For 30-Hour Bill

Green Says Executive Council Backs the Measure As Remedy for Unemployment.

Government Contract and Federal Licensing Bills Included in Legislative Program.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Miami, Fla.—Plans to forward the prompt enactment of the Black-Connery Thirty-Hour Week Bill during the present session of Congress will be given serious consideration by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor at its quarterly meeting here.

This was indicated by William Green, president of the Federation, who announced at the close of the first day's session that organized labor's standing remedy for unemployment is the shorter work week and that the forces of the trade union movement would be mobilized to secure the enactment of the Black-Connery Bill without undue delay. The existence of an unemployed army numbering over 11,000,000 was stressed as a paramount reason for prompt action on the measure by Congress.

In addition to the Thirty-Hour Week Bill, Mr. Green said organized labor's legislative program included the Walsh Government Contracts Bill and the O'Mahoney Federal Licensing Bill.

Aim of Contracts Bill

The Walsh Bill, sponsored by Senator Walsh of Massachusetts, provides that all persons who sell to the Government or have contractual relations with it shall conform to conditions contained in the specifications. The measure aims to abolish sweatshops, wipe out "kick-back" contractors and sub-contractors, and to require all persons coming under the provisionsof the act to observe fair labor conditions. The Senate passed the Walsh Bill during the 1935 session of Congress, but the House Judiciary Committee, following protests by the National Association of Manufacturers and the Southern Association of Manufacturers, who sought to have the bill rejected, postponed action on it until the 1936 session.

Labor in Licensing Bill

The Federal Licensing Bill, sponsored by Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming, would require corporations engaged in interstate commerce business to obtain licenses from the Federal Government. The licenses would contain provisions guaranteeing the rights of the workers to organize in trade unions free from interference by employers and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and prohibit employers from promoting company unions.

The licenses would also prohibit discrimination against trade unionists and women workers in terms of employment, ban child labor, and authorize the Federal Trade Commission to recommend minimum wage scales in cases where it finds existing scales are contrary to the public interest and have not been corrected by collective bargaining. Corporations failing to comply with these provisions would be refused licenses.

Trade Union Growth

The Council was informed, Mr. Green said, that during the last year in the neighborhood of 70,000 loggers and lumbermen in the Northwest, West Virginia and the South had enrolled in the A. F. of L. as members of federal labor unions directly affiliated with the Federation and had been turned over to the jurisdiction of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners sof America. Reports before the Council, he added, show substantial growth among unions in the cement, rubber, radio and automobile industries and employes of gasoline filling stations.

Help for Garment Workers

Relative to the controversy of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union connected with their negotiations affecting around 100,000 dressmakers in New York, Mr. Green expressed the conviction that the Executive Council would give full support to the union, including backing of a strike if one ic called.

Tampa Convention

In regard to holding the next convention of the Federation in Tampa, Fla., which was jeopardized by the flogging of a number of labor men by a mob some weeks ago, Mr. Green said the situation was eased by the action of the Tampa authorities in vigorously prosecuting those alleged to have committed the outrage. One of the mob's victims died from the injuries received.

Constitutional Amendment

Mr. Green said an amendment to the Federal Constitution designed to safeguard legislation typified by the Social Security Act, the Guffey Coal Stabilization Act, the Railroad Pension Act and the Wagner-Connery LaLbor Relations Act would be considered by the Council during the Miami meeting. A number of resolutions on this subject were referred to the Council by the 1935 convention of the American Federation of Labor, with instructions to have a suitable amendment prepared and submitted to Congress.

RADICALS TINGE ANTI-WAR UNITS, NAVY CHIEF SAYS

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—Col. Henry L. Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, in a speech at the national banquet of the National Sojourners here, sounded a warning against those who pose as sincere advocates of disarmament but who in reality seek to overthrow the United States Government by violence from without or to destroy it by propaganda from within.

He said the object of these camouflagers is to render the Government impotent by destroying its agencies for defense and that destruction of the Government itself "is the next step along that road."

Col. Roosevelt claimed most military and naval men are "pacifists" in the sense that they desire peace among nations, but accentuated their strong belief that the way to maintain peace was always to be adequately prepared for war.

Constitutionality of Wagner Act Defended By National Labor Board

Holds the Labor Law Is Based On the Commerce Clause of the Constitution, and Therefore Not Affected by Supreme Court's Rule Voiding A. A. A.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Act, prohibiting employers from applying a number of "unfair labor practices" designed to interfere with free rights of employes to organize in bona fide unions and choose collective bargaining agencies, is not jeopardized by the decision of the United States Supreme Court holding the Agricultural Adjustment Act unconstitutional, according to an analysis of the Labor Act and the Court's edict made by the National Labor Relations Board.

The outstanding reason for the Board's conclusion is the fact that the Agricultural Act was framed under the power of Congress to promote the general welfare, while the Labor Act is based on the power of Congress to control interstate commerce.

Following is the statement of the Board on this important question:

"Since the decision of the Supreme Court in the A. A. A. case many inquiries as to the constitutional basis of the National Labor Relations Act have been made of the National Labor Relations Board, asking its view of the effect of the A. A. A. decision on the National Labor Relations Act. In our opinion the National Labor Relations Act remains unaffected in any way by that decision.

"The Agriculture Adjustment Act was based on the general welfare clause of the Constitution. The Supreme Court, while upholding the power of Congress to act for the general welfare, found agricultural production control to be local to the separate States and as such beyond the jurisdiction of the Federal Government under the welfare clause.

Commerce Clause Stressed

"The National Labor Relations Act, on the other hand, is based on an entirely distinct clause—that giving Congress the power to regulate commerce among the States and with foreign countries.

"The Supreme Court took occasion to make clear in the A. A. A. decision that its function is 'to lay the article of the Constitution which is involved beside the statute which is challenged and to decide whether the latter squares with the former.'

"When a case involving the constitutionality of the National Labor Relations Act is reviewed by the Supreme Court, it will therefore be a question whether an action taken by the National Labor Relations Board squares with the commerce clause of the Constitution.

Significance of Schechter Case

"Certain references to industrial activities, notably the citation of the Schechter case, were made by the Supreme Court in explaining the reasoning which led the Court to find that agriculture is local in nature.

"These references, however, go no further than to illustrate the fact that Congress cannot control industry carried on wholly within one State.

"Specifically that is what was found in regard to the poultry slaughtering business of the Schechter Brothers.

"Congress, in passing the National Labor Relations Act, recognized the limitations of the commerce clause.

"The aim expressed by Congress in the National Labor Relations Act is to diminish the causes of labor disputes by removing one source of industrial unrest—the denial by employers of the right of employes to organize and the refusal of employers to accept the procedure of collective bargaining.

"It is clearly written into the Act that the Board administering it may not assume jurisdiction in cases, such as the Schechter one, where no material effect on the flow of commerce between the States is involved.

Labor Act's Jurisdiction Limited

"The Board has handled several hundreds of charges of unfair labor practices filed with it since it began functioning last September.

"It has refused on a number of occasions to entertain charges, and on other occasions to proceed with hearings, because in its judgment no proof was offered that the activities of the industry in question were in, or directly affected, interstate commerce.

"In many cases where jurisdiction was assumed, the Board has obtained compliance with the Act to the satisfaction of both employers and their workers.

"Other industries under complaint have challenged the constitutional authority of the Board to act. The Board is hopeful of an early determination of this issue."

LARGER NAVY FOR BRITAIN TO COST BILLION DOLLARS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

According to Lord Stabolgi, former member of the British admiralty war staff, the failure of the present London Five-Power Naval Conference to agree on a reduction in both the size and number of new warships would mean the immediate expenditure by Great Britain of at least one billion dollars for replacements alone. This expense by Great Britain, he said, would be followed with larger expenditures by the other powers, including the United States.

He claimed the governments involved would foot the bill by "dipping into the pocket of every man in the street." He suggested the advisability of a taxpayer's strike against increased armaments, which are held by many people to be an incitement to war.

SEAMEN'S CONVENTION OPENS IN WASHINGTON

Furuseth Presides—Olander Not Candidate for Secretaryship—Maratime Federation Bobs Up—Seamen's Legislation on Program.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The annual convention of the International Seamen's Union of America opened at the Lee House here with Andrew Furuseth, veteran 81-year-old president of the union, wielding the gavel as presiding officer just as vigorously as he did in 1908, when he was elected chief of the organization.

Secretary-Treasurer Victor Olander announced he was not a candidate for re-election to that office. In his report he indicated the outlines of a controversy with the Maratime Federation of the Pacific Coast, on which the convention will probably take definite action.

"The Pacific Coast divisions of the International Seamen's Union of America," Mr. Olander said, "have affiliated with an organization known as the Maratime Federation of the Pacific Coast, which is endeavoring to direct the activities of the unions engaged in the maratime industry on the coast.

"In becoming a part of that federated body, unions appear to have in some measure disregarded their own constitution, according to reports which have reached the international offices.

"The federated body is acting in a manner contrary to the laws of the American Federation of Labor."

Deportation of Alien Seamen

In the field of legislation the convention is expected to take definite action to secure the enactment of the King Bill providing for the deportation of alien seamen now in the United States and bringing future alien seamen under the provisions of the immigration laws, from which they are now exempt. The bill is tied up in the House of Representatives due to opposition from the Department of tSate, which objects to certain provisions as they affect foreign governments. It is believed the difficulty will be ironed out in the near future so that the bill will be slated for prompt action in Congress.

Seamen and Ship Subsidies

The ship subsidy bills before Congress will also be considered by the seamen.

Subsidy bills are usually rather cold with regard to provisions designed to benefit the men who man the ships. The 1935 convention of the American Federation of Labor took note of this delinquency and adopted a resolution prescribing that shipping interests receiving Federal assistance "be required to employ only American-born seamen or seamen who are completely naturalized citizens of the United States," with the additional stipulation that "officers and crews of all commercial ships flying the American flag be thoroughly trained and disciplined aboard American merchant ships."

HOUSE BLOC VISIONS SUPREME COURT CURB

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The evident determination of the United States Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution so narrowly as to deprive Congress of all power to promote the general interest is sharply challenged by a number of Congressmen.

A group of House members have already considered a bill introduced by Representative Cross of Texas prohibiting the lower courts from rendering decisions on the constitutionality of Federal laws and barring the Supreme Court from considering the question of constitutionality in any case reaching it on appeal.

A number of Congressmen believe Congress is given the authority to enact such legislation under the provision of Section 2 of Article 2 of the Constitution, which gives the Federal law-making body authority to determine cases which may be appealed to the Supreme Court.

Representative Cross said his bill, if enacted into law "would mean that only a State could attack the constitutionality of an act of Congress by filing an original suit in the Supreme Court."

Representative Lewis of Maryland said the Cross bill "appeals very strongly to those who think the Republic needs a legislative organ as much as a judicial organ, and if one is to be permitted to destroy the other, the purpose of the Constitution is being defeated and its terms violated."

THE COMMUNIST MENACE

By HAMILTON FISH

Member of U. S. House of Representatives from New York

Communism is a world problem and encircles the globe.

Communism reaches into every sphere of human activity, and its destructive and bloody web entangles all nations, including our neighboring republic of Mexico and Cuba.

It is a menace to civilization and no country and no people can afford to ignore it.

The best way to combat it is to ascertain the facts and give them to the public.

Let the American people, as Lincoln said, know the truth and the nation will be safe.

RURAL HOUSING PROJECT HELD UP BY INJUNCTION

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals has snagged for the time being the model low-cost housing project started by the Rural Resettlement Administration in Franklin Township, Somerset county, New Jersey. The court granted a temporary injunction asked by the officials of Franklin Township, the Franklin Township Board of Education, and four citizens restraining the administration and Rexford Guy Tugwell, its director, from proceeding with the housing project until the case was argued before the Appeals Court and a final decision handed down.

The complainants are all property owners in Franklin Township. They contend their property rights are threatened by the housing plan and challenge the constitutionality of the Rural Resettlement procedure.

Chief Justice Alfred A. Wheat of the District of Columbia Supreme Court was originally asked to grant the injunction. He refused to do so. The complainants thereupon took the case to the Court of Appeals. It was announced that if the Appeals Court finally upheld Justice Wheat's decision the case would be appealed to the United States Supreme Court.